

of your arms; which, with the manner of putting on your hat, and giving your hand, is all that a gentleman need attend to."¹ Although Chesterfield names the usual pleasures and pastimes of the eighteenth century gentleman, yet he admonishes his son to be independent in the choice of his pleasures and not let them be imposed upon him. He wants him to follow nature rather than fashion and to weigh the present enjoyment of the pleasure against the necessary consequence of it and then let his common sense determine his choice.² In brief, he says, "The pleasure of virtue, of charity, and of learning is true and lasting pleasure; with which I hope you will be well and long acquainted."³

Philip Stanhope's greatest short coming was his lack of grace. Lord Chesterfield, who was himself a model of grace and ease, was constantly distressed by his son's shyness and awkwardness. Where the sixteenth century conduct books stressed the virtues, Chesterfield emphasized the graces. The elder Stanhope realized the futility of learning and character without a pleasing, gracious personality and address. From the earliest to the last letter, he reiterates again and again, "Remember the graces!" Letter XLIV, "...whereas a gentleman, who is used to the world, comes into company with a graceful and proper assurance, speaks even to people he does not know, without embarrassment, and in a natural and easy manner. This is called usage of the world and good breeding; a most necessary and important knowledge in the intercourse of

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 101, Letter CIV.

2. op. cit., p 117, Letter CXIX.

3. op. cit., p 117 f, Letter CXIX.